

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 22608 222201Z
ACTION NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 W
-----128825 222206Z /75
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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3352
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T CAIRO 22608

EXDIS (HANDLE AS NODIS)

FROM USDEL CAIRO NO. 0033

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, XF, US
SUBJECT: TALK WITH BEN-ELISSAR - DECEMBER 22

1. IN PRIVATE CHAT ATHERTON AND STERNER HAD WITH BEN-ELISSAR DECEMBER 22, HE COMMENTED BRIEFLY ON IMPRESSIONS HE HAD RECEIVED FROM WEIZMAN ON LATTER'S MEETINGS WITH GAMASY AND SADAT. SAID ATMOSPHERE HAD BEEN CORDIAL BUT WEIZMAN HAD FOUND DISCUSSIONS "DIFFICULT." HE LEFT, ACCORDING TO BEN-ELISSAR, FEELING THAT THERE HAD BEEN LESS FLEXIBILITY IN EGYPTIAN POSITION THAN HE HAD SUPPOSED, PARTICULARLY AFTER SECOND MEETING WITH SADAT.

2. IN SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH REPRESENTATIVE HOLTZMAN, BEN-ELISSAR SAID WEIZMAN HAD FOUND SADAT'S POSITION "HARD, VERY HARD." HE SAID THAT WEIZMAN, AS RESULT OF CONVERSATION WITH SADAT, WAS "WORRIED" ABOUT OUTCOME OF NEGOTIATIONS. HE ADMITTED THAT, FOLLOWING HIS BRIEFING

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FROM WEIZMAN, HE, TOO, WAS SOMEWHAT CONCERNED. NEVERTHE-LESS, BEN-ELISSAR CONCLUDED TWO SIDES HAVE "PASSED THE POINT OF NO RETURN" AND HE THOUGHT SOMETHING WOULD BE WORKED OUT. BEN-ELISSAR SAID HE BELIEVED CRUCIAL ISSUE IS WHETHER SADAT RECOGNIZES THE LIMIT BEYOND WHICH ISRAEL CANNOT GO. HE IDENTIFIED ONE LIMIT AS ESTABLISHMENT OF INDEPENDENT STATE OF PALESTINE. HOWEVER, DESPITE ALL

DIFFICULTIES CONFRONTING THE TWO SIDES, HE EXPRESSED
OPTIMISM, DERIVED FROM DESTRUCTION OF ENORMOUS PSYCHOLOGI-
CAL BARRIERS WHICH HAD SEPARATED SIDES PREVIOUSLY.
EILTS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 22-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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